



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

63 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2012

Volume 62 Number 12

www.phil-mont.org

December 2012

Christmas! Hannukah! New Year's Eve! First Day of Winter!

OK, I was smiling 'til that last one

Some Phil-Mont "Old Timers" who attended in November



**From left Larry W3UY, Dick W3RM, Larry K3HWE, Bob W3NE,
Al W3STW, Jack K3CHR and Sam K3GBA**

***Sadly, Bill W3AOK's mother passed away on November 14th
The club extends its condolences to the Popovic family***

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. <i>Subscriptions</i> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: WU3I (12) W3MHP(12) KB3SJS(12) WA3KIO(13) N3QV(13) ND3B(13) KB3IV(A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
Committees Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV	DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE	Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB2ERL Bob Nicotera bnic1903@msn.com
Vice Pres: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller jencaz29@gmail.com
Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

Greetings everyone,

Here we are in the last month of 2012. The events near the end of the year such as the presidential elections, but mostly hurricane Sandy, will make this a year we won't soon forget, especially those of us that got hit hard at the shore.

Looking at the brighter side, Phil-Mont had another great year starting with our auction in January, another outstanding field day event, and ending the year with our elections which are always a lot of fun. Phil-Mont is an outstanding organization to be connected with and I'm sure glad to be a part of it and hope to be for a long time.

While getting ready for the holiday season keep in mind there is a lot of great new equipment out there, so if you've been thinking about a new radio, antenna or some new mode of operating this should be the year you decide to treat yourself and enjoy our hobby even better in the coming new year.

Just another reminder: this month is elections so put everything aside for the second Wednesday and come on out to the meeting, it's a fun event and we're looking for a record turn out this year.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season and am looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Till then clean audio and clear airwaves to one and all!!!

73, Bob KB2ERL

Phil-Mont

Birthdays & Tidbytes

December Birthdays

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Eric Marano - N3QV

02 Don Gordon - WB3KOJ
Patricia Katz (XYL N3OWM)

08 Jules Stein - KB3AFH

16 James Day - WA3QED

19 Larry Stevenson - K3HWE

21 Rick Spencer - N3FD

24 Richard DeVirgiliis - ND3B

Marty Weinberg - WP4MSX

25 Jim McCloskey - NS3K

27 Mindy Pollack (XYL N3VLC)

MEMBERSHIP STATS

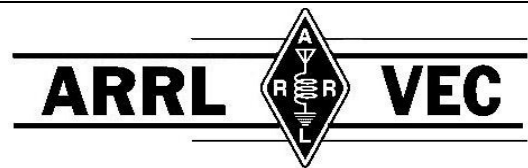
At press time P.M.R.C. has:

83 FULL PAID MEMBERS

10 FAMILY MEMBERS

3 YOUTH MEMBERS

1 HONORARY MEMBER



There will be a Saturday VE session on the 8th and the regular Thursday evening VE session is on the 20th this month due to the holiday.

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary...

General Membership Meeting 11/14/2012

Despite some initial confusion about where the meeting was moved to it was started by V.P. Al, W3STW at 19:35 hrs. The president and treasurer arrived soon after. Al spoke about the upcoming election. (Slate appears elsewhere in this issue.) He and President Bob, KB2ERL encourage all members to participate in the management of the club. Sam K3GBA, and Jen KB3MIV offered to serve as directors. Rick, ND3B will be the new secretary and his director position will be filled by the board as stipulated in the by-laws. WU3I suggested mail in ballots for those who can't/don't come to meetings. President Bob took over at 20:00 hrs and asked for reports. Treasurer Dick, W3RM reports the finances are in order and noted that dues notices will be going out soon. Jim, NS3K reports there will be a VE session Saturday morning the 8th in addition to the usual Thursday evening session on the 20th which is a week early due to the holiday. Blurb editor Rick reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 20th. Ed, KB3IV reports the nets are doing well. Sadly Bill, W3AOK was absent due to the passing of his mother. Bob, KB2ERL and Doug, WA3DSP spoke about the impact of "superstorm" Sandy. With business concluded we proceeded to the Old Timer's Night tradition of polling attendees to see who has been licensed longest and share stories and experiences from many years of amateur radio operation. It was learned that Sam Smith, K3GBA is the oldest member at 92 years and Audrey Uebelhoer, KB3UFX is the youngest at 14.

de Rick, ND3B

More November attendees



*I don't see Sol, N3UBY in the picture
but I was glad he could attend!*

Professor Bob, W3NE

One of the delights of fourth grade at Brookline Elementary School in 1938 was our weekly period scheduled for browsing in the school's Library. We could read anything that appealed to our individual interests so I always headed to the magazine rack for latest editions of *Popular Mechanics* and *Popular Science*. Both 6"x9" small format magazines then had fascinating articles of real substance in contrast to superficial digests and glitzy graphics of current editions. Aside from articles on scientific and practical developments, the magazines carried fascinating advertisements on every imaginable product and service. One regular advertisement that captured the imagination of this eleven-year-old was for Midwest radios.

Several factors made Midwest radios stand apart from major brands like RCA, Philco and Zenith. Most obvious was total reliance on “Factory-to-You” mail order, which the company was quick to point out eliminated profits associated with distributors and local retail dealers. Of course the delivery cost (substantial for a 96-pound console model) was never mentioned. There were liberal payment options, a generous return policy, and one year warranty. The principle attraction of Midwest radios though, was the large number of tubes compared to major brands. American public equated a radio’s performance to the number of tubes it had; “more was better.” Seizing on that widely-held perception, Hoffman’s 1938 radios boasted as many as twenty tubes – even more than the best communications receivers of the day! That was a good marketing ploy but it opened Midwest to accusations (all false) that some tube sockets were not wired at all, or some tubes had only their filament connected. In fact, all tubes in Midwest radios performed a function, although in many instances two tubes were used where one multiple-section tube would have been appropriate. None of that mattered though; Midwest radios sold!

High end models were loaded with features unmatched by most competitors. One was motorized tuning: the touch of a button turned on the set, a motor turned the tuning shaft to the selected station then Automatic Frequency Control ensured precise tuning. Volume expansion made loud music passages even louder compensate to compression in recordings. A “Mystic Movie Dial” (wow!) eliminated dial clutter by projecting short wave scales on the main dial only when SW had been selected.

Continued on page 8
Go on! Shoo!

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**PHIL-MONT
MOBILE RADIO
CLUB, INC.**

**17th ANNUAL HAM RADIO
"AUCTION-FEST"**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013
7PM**

**AT PHIL-MONT'S MEETING PLACE
WOLCOFF AUDITORIUM
ROXBOROUGH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
5800 RIDGE AVE. (Ridge Ave & Jamestown St.)
PHILADELPHIA PA 19128**

TALK IN: 147.030 (91.5PL)

**For More Information Contact:
DICK, W3RM**

P.O. BOX 88 - ABINGTON, PA 19001

**OR E-MAIL
five9plus@yahoo.com**

[illegible]

Bob Thomas, W3NE continued...

Tuned frequency was indicated by a spot of light dubbed "Travelling Coloray Bull's-Eye" (double wow!) Chassis and major components were often chrome plated. All those features were described and illustrated in the 20-page 1938 catalog that included glowing customer testimonials from common folk, dance band leaders and movie stars. One of those 20-tube marvels could be purchased in chassis form with three speakers for the price of an 8-tube table model from a conventional competitor. In addition, complete console models were offered in several styles and various tube counts at a fraction of the cost of mainstream products.

How did Hoffman do it? Mainly by direct sales. But there were other factors, not the least of which was cost cutting in cabinets that were cheaply constructed and poorly finished. Obsolete stock of last year's chassis or cabinets was often combined into special models for a sale price to clear old inventory. Another was by advertisements featuring the price of a bare chassis without tubes or cabinet as a come-on to hook potential buyers. Despite those criticisms, Midwest radios were a good fit for depression years when radio fans yearned for an impressive broadcast/short wave receiver at rock bottom price. That market was satisfied until the start of WW-II, when Midwest ceased civilian production to support the war effort.

If you were you were an Italian, German or Japanese alien at the start of the war – no matter how long you had lived here or even if you were born in the U.S. – you were out of luck with your Midwest or any make radio. The equivalent of "Homeland Security" had a blanket policy of confiscating radio receivers from those ill-fated residents whether or not their loyalty was in question. Of course the government promised to return the sets after the war but you can guess how many times that actually happened.

Midwest resumed manufacture of radios after the war but mechanical design was significantly simplified and standardized across all model lines. Nevertheless, Midwest radios had become a cut above the others with new sophisticated design, particularly in the RF section. Postwar models would have been a credit to any communications receiver in terms of component quality, circuit design, and robust mechanical construction. Emphasis on number of tubes in top models declined from twenty to sixteen, including circuits for the new FM band. Furthermore, perhaps in response to earlier criticism of inefficient tube use, the 1947 catalog

contained a section illustrating each tube with a technical description of its function.



Midwest recognized the potential of the television receiver market but old habits die hard. Every one of their TV receiver chassis was combined with an elaborate BC/FM/SW receiver, making them costly at a time when public interest in short wave had waned. A basic package with receiver chassis and separate power supply, speaker and CRT in its own compact cabinet was offered in addition to complete console models in numerous configurations. Eventually the company was unable to keep pace with the introduction of color TV and rapid innovations by domestic and foreign manufacturers. Midwest Radio ceased operations in the mid-'fifties. The site of their factory became a parking lot and those enchanting advertisements became a memory.

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K

HERE COME DA JUDGE ... OF PHIL-MONT ELECTION

Greetings Member, as the appointed Nominating Chairperson, I hereby declare all nominations for an officer and director of the Club are closed. Members in good standing are encouraged to attend the Club's Annual Meeting at the Roxborough Memorial Hospital December 12th to cast their vote. Ed, KB3IV, has been appointed Judge of Elections.

At the December General Meeting we will hold an election for Directors of the Club. The offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary have one candidate for each position. At the November General Meeting additional nominations were accepted from the floor for Directors. We have five candidates running to fill three open positions of Director, which is a two year term.

The candidates are;
K3GBA Sam Smith
WU3I Stephen Hoch
W3MHP Frank Kohn
KB3MIV Jennifer Caswell
KB3SJS John Simon

You are encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the second most important election this year. Photo ID not required. If you cannot attend, please take advantage of our Absentee Ballot process. You may send an email or call the Judge of Elections with your choices. Remember to select three of the five candidates listed above.

Submit your ballot to Ed KB3IV, Judge of Elections no later than Tuesday December 11.
Email to kb3iv@comcast.net
Phone 215-520-5166

de Al, W3STW and Ed, KB3IV

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

***PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET
SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS
CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT
WU3I@ARRL.NET***

**PRINTER TONER FOR SAMSUNG CLP 300
AND COMPATIBLES. NOT OEM.
2 BLACK 1 YELLOW 1 MAGENTA. 40.00
SHIPPING INCLUDED**

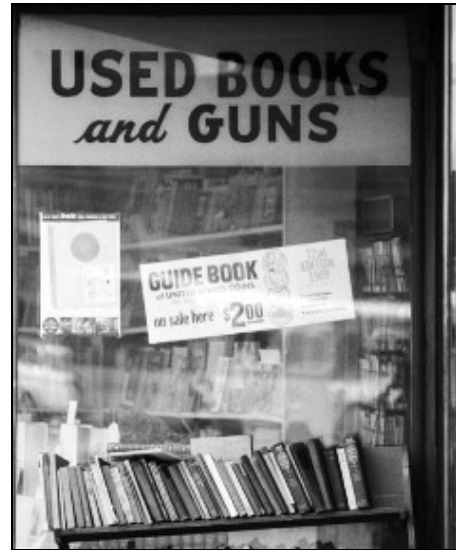
YAESU FT1000D MKV FIELD with yf 114sn and yf 110sn sideband filters installed and configured. My personal radio for several years and just got a new toy so out it goes. Manual and techinal overview, hand microphone and ac power cord included. Will be triple boxed or better. Asking 1400.00 plus shipping of 50.00 flat. Will be send ups brown and insured.

Steve wu3i@arrl.net
Stephen Hoch WU3I
CELL 2156056074

December at Phil-Mont

2nd Sun K3XS NCS
7th Fri Pearl Harbor Day
8th Sat Morning VE session
Hanukkah begins
9th Sun W3MHP NCS
12th Club meeting & Elections
16th Sun KB3SJS NCS
17th Wright Bros. First Flight 1903
21st Winter Solstice
23rd Sun KB3IV NCS
25th Tues Christmas Day
30th Sun N3QV NCS
31st Mon New Year's Eve

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***



So... are they *used* guns?

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

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